

Media Advisory

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Togo: Commission's findings must be made public

Amnesty International today wrote to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim urging them to make public the report prepared by the UN/OAU Commission of Inquiry into allegations of extrajudicial executions in Togo in 1998, and to ensure the effective protection of witnesses.

In the interest of transparency and justice for the victims of decades of human rights violations, the Commission's report and recommendations should be published in full at the earliest opportunity.

Amnesty International has received and continues to receive specific allegations causing deep concern about witnesses' safety and security at present. The Togolese government has made every attempt to thwart investigations into human rights violations.

"The effective protection of witnesses, especially at this time, must be paramount" - Amnesty International said.

As the Togolese government has a history of attempting to silence witnesses, the organization is calling on the UN Secretary General and the OAU Secretary General to establish a long term presence in Togo to ensure a protection program for witnesses and their families.

For more information on AI's concerns in Togo, please visit www.amnesty.org or contact the press office at the above mentioned telephone number.